

shot through the head near me, in this McDowell farm fight, his sword in one hand and his hat in the other, cheering on his men. Poor, dear Turner, there was no better man or more splendid soldier.

In all the marching and countermarching from the South to the North side of James river, the Nineteenth was always in place and participated in every engagement at Jones' farm, Gravelly Run, Hargroves, Boisseau's farm and other places.

In one of these engagements, near the White Oak Swamp, on the north side of the James river, and where the gallant General J. R. Chambliss, of Virginia, lost his life, the regiment had a close call. The division of General W. H. F. Lee was hurried to the front in columns of fours, the Nineteenth being the last of the division. Suddenly I saw the regiments to my front bear to the right, and immediately thereafter came an order from General Lee, borne by Major John Lee, of his staff, for the Nineteenth to hurry to the front. The command "trot," "gallop," was given, and in a short while I reported to the Major-General. My orders were to relieve the regiment to my front, the Ninth Virginia, I think it was, and he further said to me: "Roberts, you know what to do, but the line must be held."

The entire division was soon withdrawn by some miscarriage of orders, as I afterwards learned, and it was not very long before the enemy advanced in great numbers upon my little command, but it stood up against this onslaught as only brave men can. At one time the regiment was practically surrounded, and its annihilation seemed complete, but in the very nick of time up dashed the Ninth North Carolina, led by the gallant Colonel W. H. Cheek, who finally responded to my wishes and put his regiment where I suggested it should be put, and by his action I was enabled to extricate my men. But our loss was enormous; more than thirty officers and men killed in a few minutes. Captain L. R. Cowper, of Company C, and Captain George P. Bryan, of Company G, were among the killed. They were both brave officers and splendid soldiers, and their loss was a sad blow to the regiment. Captain Cowper and I had left home together—had been non-